Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for promoting healing of damaged tissue after an open heart surgery, the method comprising:

providing a substantially planar healing membrane, which is: (a) substantially-smooth on at least one side; (b) substantially uniform in composition; (c) about 10 microns to about 300 microns in thickness; (d) non-porous; (e) constructed from a resorbable polymer base material ~~selected from the group consisting essentially of (a) a poly-lactide polymer, (b) a copolymer of lactides, and (c) a poly-lactide polymer and a copolymer of lactides, the resorbable polymer base material~~ being a poly-lactide polymer and a copolymer of lactides, ~~and~~ the poly-lactide polymer and copolymer of lactides being 70:30 poly (L-lactide-co-D,L-lactide); and (f) adapted to be resorbed into the mammalian body within a period of approximately 18 to 24 months from an initial implantation of the membrane into the mammalian body; and

placing the healing membrane adjacent to an opening in pericardial tissue of a patient so that the pericardial tissue surrounding the opening can regenerate over the membrane.

2. Cancelled.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for promoting healing of damaged tissue after an open heart surgery, the method comprising:

providing a substantially planar healing membrane, which is: (a) substantially-smooth on at least one side; (b) substantially uniform in composition; (c) about 10 microns to about 300 microns in thickness; (d) non-porous; (e) constructed from a resorbable polymer base material ~~selected from the group consisting essentially of (a) a poly-lactide polymer, (b) a copolymer of lactides, and (c) a poly-lactide polymer and a copolymer of lactides, the resorbable polymer base material~~ being a poly-lactide polymer and the poly-lactide polymer being poly-L-lactide; and (f) adapted to be resorbed into the mammalian body within a period of approximately 18 to 24 months from an initial implantation of the membrane into the mammalian body; and

placing the healing membrane adjacent to an opening in pericardial tissue of a patient so that the pericardial tissue surrounding the opening can regenerate over the membrane.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thickness of the membrane is about 100 microns.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thickness of the membrane is about 200 microns.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the healing membrane is provided in a sterile packaging.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for promoting healing of damaged tissue after an open heart surgery, the method comprising:

providing a substantially planar healing membrane, which is: (a) substantially-smooth on at least one side; (b) substantially uniform in composition; (c) about 10 microns to about 300 microns in thickness; (d) non-porous; (e) constructed from a resorbable polymer base material selected from the group consisting essentially of (~~a~~i) a poly-lactide polymer, (~~b~~ii) a copolymer of lactides, and (~~c~~iii) a poly-lactide polymer and a copolymer of lactides; and (f) adapted to be resorbed into the mammalian body within a period of approximately 18 to 24 months from an initial implantation of the membrane into the mammalian body; and

placing the healing membrane adjacent to an opening in pericardial tissue of a patient so that the pericardial tissue surrounding the opening can regenerate over the membrane, the placing of the healing membrane in a patient being effective to attenuate formation of scar tissue.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of placing the healing membrane in a patient is effective to attenuate tissue adhesion.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of attaching the healing membrane to the pericardial tissue.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the attaching step comprises heat bonding the membrane to the pericardial tissue.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for promoting healing of damaged tissue after an open heart surgery, the method comprising:

providing a substantially planar healing membrane, which is: (a) substantially-smooth on at least one side; (b) substantially uniform in composition; (c) about 10 microns to about 300 microns in thickness; (d) non-porous; (e) constructed from a resorbable polymer base material selected from the group consisting essentially of (~~a~~i) a poly-lactide polymer, (~~b~~ii) a copolymer of lactides, and (eiii) a poly-lactide polymer and a copolymer of lactides, the membrane comprising angiotensin antagonists; and (f) adapted to be resorbed into the mammalian body within a period of approximately 18 to 24 months from an initial implantation of the membrane into the mammalian body; and

placing the healing membrane adjacent to an opening in pericardial tissue of a patient so that the pericardial tissue surrounding the opening can regenerate over the membrane.

12-21. Cancelled.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the healing membrane is precontoured into a heart-shaped bag and the placing comprises placing the healing membrane to surround the apex of a heart.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for promoting healing of damaged tissue after an open heart surgery, the method comprising:

providing a substantially planar healing membrane, which is: (a) substantially-smooth on at least one side; (b) substantially uniform in composition; (c) about 10 microns to about 300 microns in thickness; (d) non-porous; (e) constructed from a resorbable polymer base material selected from the group consisting essentially of (~~a~~i) a poly-lactide polymer, (~~b~~ii) a copolymer of lactides, and (eiii) a poly-lactide polymer and a copolymer of lactides, the healing membrane ~~is~~ being precontoured into a tube; and (f) adapted to be resorbed into the mammalian body within a period of approximately 18 to 24 months from an initial implantation of the membrane into the mammalian body; and

placing the healing membrane adjacent to an opening in pericardial tissue of a patient so that the pericardial tissue surrounding the opening can regenerate over the membrane, the placing comprising placing the healing membrane around the conduit of a left-ventricular assist device (LVAD).

24. (Currently Amended) A method for promoting healing of damaged tissue after an open

heart surgery, the method comprising:

providing a substantially planar healing membrane, which is: (a) substantially-smooth on at least one side; (b) substantially uniform in composition; (c) about 10 microns to about 300 microns in thickness; (d) non-porous; (e) constructed from a resorbable polymer base material selected from the group consisting essentially of (~~a~~i) a poly-lactide polymer, (~~b~~ii) a copolymer of lactides, and (eiii) a poly-lactide polymer and a copolymer of lactides, the healing membrane being precontoured; and (f) adapted to be resorbed into the mammalian body within a period of approximately 18 to 24 months from an initial implantation of the membrane into the mammalian body; and

placing the healing membrane adjacent to an opening in pericardial tissue of a patient so that the pericardial tissue surrounding the opening can regenerate over the membrane, the placing comprising placing the healing membrane over a pump of a left-ventricular assist device (LVAD).